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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR/Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Soviet Tanker SOVETSKAYA NEFT in Hamburg 2. Soviet Tanker BATUMI	DATE DISTR.	16 July 1954
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- From 30 March to 8 April 1954, the Soviet tanker SOVETSKAYA NEFT, of 8,200 GRT, was in the harbor of Hamburg to unload soy beans for East Germany. The home port of the SOVETSKAYA NEFT is Vladivostok. The tanker came from Dairen and was bound originally for Gdynia. The voyage had been considerably delayed, as it had to tow into Hongkong a Soviet merchant ship which had run short of coal underway. Because of this delay the SOVETSKAYA NEFT was ordered to Hamburg. Captain Isotov (fnu), who commanded the tanker, wore a dark blue uniform with a broad gold stripe as worn by an admiral, and some decoration ribbons.
- The captain stated that the SOVETSKAYA NEFT had been carrying oil and gasoline between Vladivostok and Chinese ports. As the tanker was recently scheduled to trade in the Black Sea, and as no other cargo was obtainable, the ship carried a cargo of soy beans to avoid dispatching it in ballast.
- At Hamburg the captain expressed surprise at the rapid unloading of the numerous tanks by means of three floating elevators. The ship was unloaded in less than five days. The captain said that he was going to report this good result of unloading operations to the authorities so that more ships would be sent to Hamburg.
- The captain stated that the Soviet oil fields were located mainly on Sakhalin Island and on Kamchatka, and that Vladivostok was equipped with ultra-modern loading equipment. A tanker of between 10,000 and 12,000 tons could be loaded in 24 hours in Vladivostok.
- Most crew members of the tanker SOVETSKAYA NEFT came from the Vladivostok region. They were in bad mood because of the long voyage. The tanker arrived in Hamburg as late as 30 March.
- The Soviet tanker BATUMI, which also carried a cargo of soy beans, was enroute to Hamburg; it was expected to arrive on 15 or 16 April 1954.

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